

316 COMMENTARY ON MACAULAY'S
HISTORY

since it had not pleased God to give me a son
by him, I
should not wish to have one by an angel.¹

Despite Mary's submission and obedience
to all his
wishes William seems to have purposely
delayed her arrival
in England, lest she should in one way or
another be set
above him. William landed November 5 but
did not send
for Mary till February i. According to
Burnet, Danby
sent a messenger to the Princess, saying

he did not doubt but he should be able to
carry it for
setting her alone on the throne [i.e. without
William]. She
made him a very sharp answer : she said,
she was the
Prince's wife, and would never be other than
what she
should be in conjunction with him and under
him ; and
that she would take it extremely unkindly, if
any, under a
pretence of their care of her, would set up a
divided interest
between her and the Prince. And, not
content with this,
she sent both Lord Danby's letter and her
answer to the
Prince.²

In the original draft of his History Burnet
calls this a
piece of secret history of which he had only
recently learnt,
and did not know at the time.³ Macaulay⁴
accepts the
story, but there is no reference to it in Mary's
own narrative
and the letters have never come to light.
Burnet is the only
authority for the story, and it is not confirmed
or probable
In itself. Ranke justly doubts it.⁵ On the other
hand the
knowledge of her resolution to surrender her

power to her
husband if she became queen had been the
decisive argu-
ment for offering the crown to William. '
Those to whom
I gave the account of that matter were indeed
amazed at it/
says Burnet, ' and concluded, that the
Princess was either

¹ Ibid. pp. 80-1.

^a Own Time, i. 819.

³ Supplement, p. 310.

⁴ III, 1290-2 (x).

⁵ iv. 517, n. i.